WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of performing maintenance/management on a maintenance/management-subjected machine with the aid of a maintenance/management control equipment by way of an information network, said maintenance/management-subjected machine being comprised of a main machinery section, a first maintenance/management processing unit and a second maintenance/management processing unit which are connected to said information network and have first and second logical addresses, respectively, on said information network,

        said method comprising:

        a step a) of executing maintenance/management processing for said main machinery section by means of said first maintenance/management processing unit on the basis of commands of said maintenance/management control equipment while placing said second maintenance/management processing unit in a standby state, when said first maintenance/management processing unit is operating; and

        a step b) in which upon detection of abnormality of said first maintenance/management processing unit, said second maintenance/management processing unit placed in the standby state takes over maintenance/management processing for said main machinery section from said first maintenance/management processing unit by rewriting said second logical address assigned to said second maintenance/

management processing unit to said first logical
address assigned to said first maintenance/management
processing unit, said first logical address being
different from said second logical address.

2.   A maintenance/management method according to
claim 1,

said step b) including the substep of:

supervising operation of said first
maintenance/management processing unit by means of said
second maintenance/management processing unit for
thereby detecting occurrence of abnormality in said
first maintenance/management processing unit.

3.   A maintenance/management method according to
claim 1,

said step b) including the substep of:

supervising operation of said first
maintenance/management processing unit by means of said
main machinery section for thereby detecting
abnormality taking place in said first maintenance/
management processing unit.

4.   A maintenance/management method according to
claim 1,

wherein said main machinery section is
implemented as a disk array system.

5.   A maintenance/management method according to
claim 1,

said step b) including the substep of:

responding to detection of abnormality taking

place in said first maintenance/management processing unit by interrupting power supply to said first maintenance/management processing unit in precedence to rewriting of the logical address of said second maintenance/management processing unit.

6.   A maintenance/management method according to claim 1,

        wherein power supply systems are provided separately for said first maintenance/management processing unit and said second maintenance/management processing unit, respectively,

        said method further comprising:

        a step in which upon detection of abnormality in a power supply system for said first maintenance/ management processing unit, said second maintenance/ management processing unit placed in the standby state takes over maintenance/management processing for said main machinery section from said first maintenance/ management processing unit by rewriting said second logical address assigned to said second maintenance/ management processing unit to said first logical address assigned to said first maintenance/management processing unit, said first logical address being different from said second logical address.

7.   A maintenance/management method according to claim 1,

        further comprising a step in which said first maintenance/management processing unit confirms

operations of said second maintenance/management
processing unit placed in the standby state in the
course of operation of said first maintenance/
management processing unit.

8.   A maintenance/management method according to
claim 1,

        further comprising a step in which said first
maintenance/management processing unit copies
maintenance/management information concerning at least
said main machinery section to said auxiliary
maintenance/management processing unit in the course of
operation of said first maintenance/management
processing unit.

9.   A maintenance/management system for
performing maintenance/management on a maintenance/
management-subjected machine with the aid of a
maintenance/management control equipment by way of an
information network,

        said maintenance/management-subjected machine
includes

        a main machinery section; and

        a first maintenance/management processing
unit and a second maintenance/management processing
unit which are connected to said information network
and have different first and second logical addresses,
respectively, on said information network,

        said first maintenance/management processing
unit and said second maintenance/management processing

unit being so arranged as to realize such control logic that maintenance/management processing for said main machinery section is executed by means of said first maintenance/management processing unit on the basis of commands of said maintenance/management control equipment while said second maintenance/management processing unit is placed in a standby state, when said first maintenance/ management processing unit is operating, and that upon detection of abnormality of said first maintenance/management processing unit, said second maintenance/management processing unit placed in the standby state takes over maintenance/management processing for said main machinery section from said first maintenance/management processing unit by rewriting said second logical address assigned to said second maintenance/management processing unit to said first logical address assigned to said first maintenance/management processing unit, said first logical address being different from said second logical address.

10.   A maintenance/management system according to claim 9,

        wherein said first maintenance/management processing unit and said second maintenance/management processing unit include first and second power supply units independent of each other, and

        wherein said control logic is so designed that upon detection of abnormality in said first

maintenance/management processing unit, power supply to said first maintenance/management processing unit from said first power supply unit is interrupted.

11.   An information processing system, comprising:

a first information processing unit and a second information processing unit both connected to an information network and assigned with different logical addresses, respectively, said first information processing unit and said second information processing unit being arranged to be capable of interchanging each other,

a first power supply unit for feeding electric power to said first information processing unit; and

a second power supply unit for feeding electric power to said second information processing unit independently from said first power supply unit,

wherein when said second information processing unit includes operation supervising means for supervising operation of said first information processing unit in the course of operation of said first information processing unit; and

wherein when said operation supervising means detects occurrence of abnormality in the operation of said first information processing unit, the second information processing unit responds thereto by interrupting power supply to said first information processing unit from said first power supply unit while

logical address assigned to said second information
processing unit is replaced by logical address assigned
to said first information processing unit.

12.　　　　A computer program embodied on a computer-
readable medium for performing maintenance/management
on a maintenance/management-subjected machine with the
aid of a maintenance/management control equipment by
way of an information network, said maintenance/
management-subjected machine being comprised of a main
machinery section, a first maintenance/management
processing unit and a second maintenance/management
processing unit which are connected to said information
network and have first and second logical addresses,
respectively, on said information network, comprising:

　　　　first computer-readable program code means
designed for executing maintenance/management
processing for said main machinery section by means of
said first maintenance/management processing unit on
the basis of commands of said maintenance/management
control equipment while placing said second
maintenance/management processing unit in a standby
state, when said first maintenance/management
processing unit is operating; and

　　　　second computer-readable program code means
designed such that upon detection of abnormality of
said first maintenance/management processing unit, said
second maintenance/management processing unit placed in
the standby state takes over maintenance/management

processing for said main machinery section from said
first maintenance/management processing unit by
rewriting said second logical address assigned to said
second maintenance/management processing unit to said
first logical address assigned to said first
maintenance/management processing unit, said first
logical address being different from said second
logical address.